



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
**HOMELAND
SECURITY**
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MAYOR

METRO BOSTON OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Monthly Newsletter

April 2005, Volume 3



ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Federal Fiscal Year 2005 Urban Areas Security Award

The Metro Boston Office of Homeland Security was recently notified of the FFY2005 Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Grant Program award. OHS staff is currently preparing an addendum to the Metro Boston Regional Plan, as required by the Executive Office of Public Safety (EOPS). The Regional Plan outlines the homeland security goals, objectives, and short/long term tasks identified by the region's first responder disciplines. During the extended grant period of federal fiscal year 2005, OHS plans to continue to support the regional planning, training, exercises, and equipment priorities that the Region has been engaged in during the past eighteen months, both collectively as a region and as individual agencies.

FFY2005 Not For Profit Grants

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety will be making available homeland security funding under Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2005 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Boston UASI Region (Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Quincy, Revere, Somerville, Winthrop) at risk for a terrorist attack. Specifically, the funding will enable nonprofit organizations in specific high-threat; high-density urban areas to make physical security facility enhancements to better protect them from a terrorist attack. These grants will be based upon the criteria used to determine the UASI funding allocations, which include credible threat, presence of critical infrastructure, vulnerability, population, population density, law enforcement investigative and enforcement activity, and the existence of formal mutual aid agreements.

More information can be accessed at www.state.ma.us/eops

Public-Private Relationships

In order to continue its commitment to the regional homeland security plans, OHS staff is working with the Region's private partners in the EMS and Health Care discipline to establish formal contracts with the City of Boston in order to support the costs of the regional homeland security training and exercise initiatives approved by the Office of Domestic Preparedness. The establishing formal contracts, as part of the Regional Plan, are critical in maintaining interdisciplinary training and working relationships.

Recent Awards for Homeland Security Initiatives

The Office of Homeland Security continues to identify innovative and pertinent homeland security initiatives, many of which have been identified as critically needed in the areas of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery of a terrorist and/or chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) incident. There is no question that such an event will impact all agencies in some way, both first responders as well as those agencies that play a critically needed support role following any incident. In order to meet some of these needs, in support of the MBHSR Regional Plan, sub-awards have been made to the following regional agencies to date:

- Boston Fire Department
- Brookline Fire Department
- Cambridge Police Department
- Cambridge Fire Department
- Chelsea Police Department
- Chelsea Fire Department
- Everett Police Department
- Everett Fire Department
- Quincy Police Department
- Quincy Fire Department
- Revere Police Department
- Revere Fire Department
- Somerville Police Department
- Somerville Fire Department
- Winthrop Police Department
- Winthrop Fire Department
- City of Boston Management & Information Services

OHS is reviewing proposals on a rolling basis. All proposals are required to, at minimum, meet the following criteria, (1) meet a direct homeland security need; (2) apply directly to the Metro Boston Regional Homeland Security Plan, (3) meet all allowable expenditures according to the federal grant guidelines, and (4) solid reasonability for short and long term maintenance. Deadline for all FFY2004 proposals from both Regional Discipline Subcommittees, as well as all City of Boston agencies is April 29th.

Allowable Homeland Security Expenses

In discussions with our partners many have asked where to find detailed information on "allowable expenses" under the grant programs we operate under. Allowable expenses have evolved year to year so allowable expenses depend on what fiscal year of funding we are operating on. The best guidance for current projects is the FFY2004 UASI and HSGP grant guidance. In the not-so-distant future we will be working from the FY 2005 HSGP/UASI guidance.

FFY 2004 UASI: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/fy04uasi.pdf>

FFY 2004 HSGP: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/fy04hsgp_appkit.pdf

FFY2005 HSGP/UASI: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/fy05hsgp.pdf>

Frequently Asked Questions

As the Metro Boston Office of Homeland Security moves forward in the development and coordination of the multitude of regional initiatives, a number of questions continue to be raised concerning policies, procedures, reimbursement, contracts and operational agreements. During the month of April, OHS will begin distributing "Frequently Asked Questions" which will address answers to commonly asked questions, and be provided regularly in this newsletter.

Should you have questions that you'd like to submit to OHS, please direct them to Adam Wehrenberg at adam.wehrenberg@cityofboston.gov.

Jurisdiction Points of Contact Meetings

JPOC meetings have been scheduled through October. Please mark your calendar! If you can host an upcoming meeting please notify Carol Gerrior, Staff Assistant at (617) 635-1400.

Host needed – April 27, 2005

Quincy – May 25, 2005

Host needed – June 29, 2005

Host needed – July 27, 2005

Boston – August 31, 2005

Chelsea – September 28, 2005

Brookline – October 26, 2005

TRAINING RESOURCES

Local Resources

General information concerning training provided by the DelValle Institute of Emergency Preparedness can be accessed at <http://www.bphc.org/delvalle>

Information on the availability of homeland security training sponsored by the State can be accessed at

<http://www.mass.gov/portal/index.jsp?pageID=eopssubtopic&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Funding+%26+Training+Opportunities&L2=Homeland+Security&L3=Training%2fCourses&sid=Eeops>.

Please refer to the Subcommittee updates for specific information on training.

Specific requests for support of training must be made to the Metro Boston Office of Homeland Security. OHS will submit all requests for training to the State/Federal agency on behalf of its regional partners.

State Resources

The following three courses are currently being offered to all of our regional partners. To sign up for any of the three, contact your discipline coordinator by Monday, April 11, 2005.

Weapons of Mass Destruction

This one-day course is offered through EMCRT/New Mexico Tech and is open to all Public Safety Personnel (Fire, Police, Corrections, Emergency Dispatchers, EMS, Emergency Management) and contractors who may be responsible for responding to a terrorist or suicide bombing incident. The course is broken down into two segments: *Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings* and *Preventing and Responding to Suicide Bombing Incidents*.

The course is designed to help first responders develop policies for the prevention, interdiction, response, and mitigation of a suicide bombing attack and to react effectively, work cooperatively, and apply countermeasures in a WMD incident involving explosives.

Dates, Times, and Locations

May 10, 2005

8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M

Department of Correction Training Academy at the Shirley Training Complex

May 11, 2005

8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M

Roxy Theatre - Otis Air Force Base, Bourne, MA

ICS-300

This three-day course is offered through MEMA and is designed for mid-level management first responder agencies. The series of modules offered will instruct how to effectively manage incidents that extend beyond the normal work schedule, expanding on the planning, logistics and finance/administration section of the Incident Command System. Don Carlton will serve as the instructor. The modules offered include:

Module #7	Organization and Staffing
Module #8	Organization for Incident and Events
Module #9	Incident Resources Management
Module #10	Air Operations
Module #11	Incident and Event Planning

All attendees must have taken the NIIMS ICS200 or equivalent prior to taking this course.

Dates, Times, and Locations

May 3 - 5, 2005 (Tuesday - Thursday)

8:30AM to 4:00PM (all three days)

Middlesex Sheriff's Training Academy

793 Boston Rd.

Billerica, MA

Exercise Design Course (GI20)

This three-day course is offered through MEMA and is open to all first responders. The course is designed to develop skills that will enable those attending to train staff and to conduct an exercise that will test a community's plan and its operational response capabilities. It will provide knowledge and develop skills that will enable those attending to manage exercise evaluation activities before, during, and after an emergency management exercise. Don Carlton will serve as the instructor.

Dates, Times, and Locations

May 11 - 13, 2005 (Wednesday - Friday)

8:30AM to 4:00PM (Wednesday and Thursday)

8:30AM to 1:00PM (Friday only)

Andover Police Department

32 North Main St.

Andover, MA

For more information concerning these regional training initiatives, please contact your discipline coordinator or Adam Wehrenberg at Adam.Wehrenberg@cityofboston.gov.

PROJECT UPDATES

Interoperable Communications

The Communications Interoperability Subcommittee has been hard at work completing a comprehensive technical capabilities assessment for communications equipment across the MBHSR. Under the leadership of Chief Gerry Reardon, the Subcommittee has maintained tremendous focus on the task at hand: getting the region's responders to be able to communicate quickly and effectively when they need to most. The CIS' Assessment Workgroup – George Fosque, David Troup, Steve Staffier, and Bryan Corbett – deserve special recognition for their tireless work in developing the assessment instrument. The CIS will shortly select a vendor to analyze the technical assessment data, conduct an operational assessment, and lead the CIS in developing a 5-year Communications Interoperability Strategic Plan.

Operation Atlas

Tabletop Exercises 1 through 4 have been completed and have been considered a great success. The level of participation on the part of local, state, federal, and private sector stakeholders has been unprecedented. The Senior Leaders tabletop exercise takes place on April 7th and the Full-Scale Exercise takes place on May 7th.

Target Hardening

An RFP will shortly be published seeking a vendor to conduct assessments of critical infrastructures identified by each of the MBHSR communities. The vendor will conduct in-depth site assessments of critical infrastructures and make specific recommendations about how to harden these targets through improvements in policies, procedures, protocols, equipment, technology, physical security upgrades, training, and exercises.

EOC Enhancements

MOHS is in final contract negotiations with a highly-qualified vendor who will conduct assessments of each of the MBHSR's Emergency Operations Centers. The goal is to identify the most comprehensive, operationally sound, and fiscally feasible recommendations for improvement of the MBHSR's existing EOCs. These recommendations shall be based on complete assessments of the current EOC capabilities, operations, policies, and procedures.

Metro Boston Homeland Security Integration Center (MBHSIC)

The same highly-qualified vendor being contracted to conduct the EOC assessments will also work with regional stakeholders on completing a requirements analysis and concept of operations for a regional homeland security integration center. The MBHSIC will integrate emergency operations, intelligence and information sharing, training, and continuity of government operations for the region.

DISCIPLINE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

The EMS Subcommittee last met on March 23rd, 2005. Major topics included an overview of the MOHS General Project Plan Submission Procedure, of which information was handed out concerning the availability of funding and the proper protocol the subcommittee is to follow in submitting homeland security related project proposals for the Metro Boston Region. Dr. Kathryn Brinsfield gave an overview of the prospective purchase for a Patient Tracking System and the group then had a discussion based upon this proposal. The proposal will be a united effort between the EMS, Public Health, and Healthcare Subcommittees. Two systems are currently being assessed. Raytheon, based out of St. Louis, Missouri, presented its product on March 17th. The next vendor presentation will be on April 18th by Disaster Medical Systems (presentations at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM). Concerning FY 2004 Equipment, the group is currently assessing their individual respective jurisdictional EMS needs. The group has been tasked to provide a detailed list of needed homeland security equipment for the next meeting. Partners have also agreed that it is in the best interest to standardize the equipment coming in for purposes of consistency in training, participating in multi-jurisdictional exercises, and responding to a multi-jurisdictional CBRNE incident. Lastly, the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and the private EMS partners are in the process of establishing contracts linking the two entities together for purposes of accomplishing our overall mission. Further updates in this area will be provided as progress occurs.

Training

The EMS Subcommittee partners will continue to fill spots for training sessions at the DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness. Upcoming 24 Hour WMD Protection and Decontamination training classes will be offered on the following dates:

- May 9-11, 2005
- June 20-22, 2005

Moving forward, the Subcommittee will also begin to pursue approved ODP WMD Training programs in order to further enhance overall preparedness and response capabilities.

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, April 5th, 2005 from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM at the Brookline Public Safety Building.
Week of April 18th, 2005 from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Actual date and place TBD.

For more information concerning the Regional EMS Discipline Subcommittee, please contact Jonathan Dillon at jonathan.dillon@cityofboston.gov.

FIRE SERVICES/HAZMAT

The Fire Service Subcommittee has been actively engaged in a number of regional initiatives, including a continued commitment to implementing regional training opportunities, a regional inventory tracking software application, and recently, the discussion of urban search and rescue teams as a long term initiative in FFY2005.

Training: WMD / Radiological Training Course

The Fire Subcommittee is working towards delivering the ODP-Approved, 6 hour course entitled “WMD Radiological / Nuclear Awareness” to all 2,700+ regional uniformed fire personnel.

Currently, Lt. Hardiman of Boston Fire and Mike Colanti, the Fire Service Discipline Coordinator, are integrating the 10 regional department schedules (including Massport Fire) in an effort to organize the time-frame for course delivery.

The course will be delivered by approximately 50 regionally certified instructors who also were certified in the completion of the ODP Train-the-Trainer course delivered on Feb. 28th. It is expected that the trainings will take place at the Quincy Shipyard and Massport Fire’s training facility over the course of approximately 3-5 months.

Firehouse Software

The sub-committee proposal for an integrated, cross-jurisdictional software system has been approved by OHS. The software system will allow for the organized and efficient tracking of UASI funded regional trainings, exercises, and equipment procurements. It will also allow for regional tracking of hydrant testing, which serves the goal of ensuring that critical infrastructure is functional should a terrorist / CBRNE even present itself.

As the committee moves forward with equipment procurement to be available to the region as a whole, this system will provide the capacity to track who is in possession of what equipment at any given time.

Urban Search & Rescue Team

The Fire Subcommittee has proposed the construction of a regional Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) to be supported out of FY05 UASI funding. The initiative is still in its conceptual stages, and the committee is working to develop some preliminary concepts that it can propose to its regional partners. It is the hope that multiple disciplines will be included in this regional team.

The benefit of a regional US&R team would be that a local incident could be responded to immediately, and any hazard site could be appropriately managed until federal assistance (if necessary) arrived. There currently exists a significant void in the regional capacity to respond to structural collapse in the event of a terrorist event.

Upcoming Meetings

Week of April 11th, 2005 at Everett Police Department. Actual date and time TBD.

For more information concerning the Regional Fire Service Subcommittee, please contact Mike Colanti at Michael.Colanti@cityofboston.gov.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

There are two major tasks presently being undertaken by the Law Enforcement Subcommittee (LEC). The LEC has created workgroups which are in the process of drafting proposals for a regional camera surveillance system and for a regional tactical response team. These are items

that have been topics of discussion at Subcommittee meetings for some time, and have now finally been a main focus of the group.

The LEC has also finalized the procurement process for Blauer chemical-resistant outerwear by providing amended requisition forms with changes in model numbers. The Subcommittee determined that a different jacket style would benefit the officer uniform more so than the style originally selected.

Regional Surveillance

Currently the largest project on the LEC agenda, the drafting of a proposal for the regional camera surveillance system is a major initiative moving forward. The proposal will stem from a narrative outlining current surveillance capabilities in the region. Other details to be integrated into this concept include the simple logistics of location, number, and data capability of the cameras, as well as the more complicated issue of who will have control over what parts of the system and where data will be stored. In creating this system proposal, MOAs will be drafted as well with public and private parties in the area. It is the hope of the Subcommittee to incorporate this proposed camera system into an even larger surveillance project involving a number of regional players from the private sector.

Regional Tactical Team

The Subcommittee is looking to create a tactical operations team that will serve the northern region of the MBHSR with a response team comprised of specially trained officers from each involved jurisdiction. The goal of the team is to create uniformity among responders and efficiency in procedures in any number of homeland security-related instances that may require a heightened security presence. The proposal will include aspects of equipment and training, both large regional initiatives which may include some objects and elements that are not approved by ODP. Therefore, part of the proposal will include cost-sharing, as the LEC will have to look to outside funding sources in order to complete at least some of its objectives. As with the surveillance proposal, MOAs will be included.

Exercises

An important issue for the future of the LEC is the potential for a variety of training and exercise options. As the DelValle trainings are established and running smoothly and the Operation Atlas exercise series is passing its halfway point, the LEC will be looking outside of these core UASI programs to the formulation of more specialized trainings and exercises. One particular exercise worth mention is one involving an LNG tanker. The LEC has already established workgroups for Training and Exercise that will likely be called upon in the coming weeks to plan some future initiatives of the Subcommittee.

Trainings

All trainings are held at the DelValle Institute in Boston unless otherwise noted.

WMD Protection & Decontamination for Law Enforcement (24-hour)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| ➤ Apr 11-13 (Everett) | ➤ May 4-6 | ➤ June 27-29 (Everett) |
| ➤ Apr 20-22 | ➤ May 23-25 | ➤ Aug 8-10 |
| ➤ Apr 27-29 | ➤ June 13-15 | ➤ Aug 31-Sept 2 |

Advanced WMD/Hazardous Materials Technician Course (40-hour)

- Apr 4-8
- June 6-10

Locations

Boston:

Miranda-Creamer Building
35 Northampton Street
Boston, MA

Everett:

Everett Police Department
45 Elm Street
Everett, MA

The 24-hour course has just increased its capacity from 30 to 40 per class, and there still openings in every session. If you would like further information about these trainings, please contact Adam Wehrenberg, Law Enforcement Coordinator, at the email address below.

Upcoming Meetings

Friday, April 1st, 2005 at 1:00 PM in Brookline
Friday, April 21st, 2005 at 1:00 PM. Location TBD

For more information concerning the Regional Law Enforcement Subcommittee, please contact Adam Wehrenberg at Adam.Wehrenberg@cityofboston.gov.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Public Health Subcommittee held its monthly meeting at the Brookline Public Health Department on March 14th. The Subcommittee discussed the draft tasks and objectives, including: working towards interoperable communications and memorandums of agreement and the process for filing for overtime and backfill reimbursement with the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security for eligible employees.

The UASI PH Subcommittee participated in the March 28-31st FEMA/IEMC course and exercise held at the Massachusetts Archives on the UMASS, Boston campus. This exercise also included the fourth table top exercise in the Atlas series. The initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Upcoming Trainings:

Advanced WMD/Hazardous Materials Technician Course:

- April 4-8
- June 6-10

WMD Protection & Decontamination for Health Care Workers

- May 9-11
- June 20-22

All courses are sponsored by the DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness
All courses start at 8:00 am, registration begins at 7:30.

Upcoming Meetings

The next sub committee meeting will be held at Brookline Public Health on Monday, April, 25th between 12:30-2:00.

For more information regarding the Public Health Subcommittee please feel free to contact Liam Seward at 617 534 2474 or at liam.seward@cityofboston.gov.

HEALTH CARE

The Health Care Subcommittee has revised its strategic document and decided upon six top priority projects that closely mirror each of the regional health care objectives. For the purpose of research and planning, the committee has divided into task forces comprised of three to five volunteers that have agreed to pursue information on one of the proposed projects and report back with their findings and recommendations to the full Health Care Committee.

Working with the EMS and Public Health coordinators and Dr. Kathryn Brinsfield of Boston EMS, the Health Care Committee has been researching Patient Tracking Software systems. In order to more closely integrate the proposed system with the various IT systems employed by the hospitals, the Health Care Committee is working closely with EMS and PH and the vendors to determine each of the software's flexibility and compatibility with the present systems. There was a product demonstration on March 17th by Raytheon of its system, and DMS will present its model on April 19th in the O'Neil Conference Room at Boston EMS.

The Health Care Committee had commitments from nearly every urban area hospital to attend the four-day Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) sponsored by FEMA and the MBHSR. For that portion of the IEMC that most closely simulated an Operation Atlas medical table top exercise—almost eight hours on Wednesday March 30th—the Health Care Committee had a commitment from fully 100% of the member institutions.

Trainings, Class and Conferences

- The next 24 Hr. WMD Protection and Decon Class offered for Health Care workers by the DelValle Institute runs from April 11th through the 13th, but this class is already filled. The next two classes run from May 9th to the 11th and from June 20th to the 22nd.
- The next 8 Hr. Level C Personal Protective Equipment class offered by DelValle will take place on May 18th.
- The next 8 Hr. Hazmat emergency response refresher courses offered through DelValle are on April 19th and on June 3rd.
- The next installment in the monthly DelValle Emergency Preparedness lecture series is on Tuesday April 5th at 3:00 PM in the Bigelow Surgical Amphitheater on the fourth floor of the White Building at Mass General Hospital. This month's lecture, entitled 'Risk Communication', will be delivered by Dr. Howard Koh, the former Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

- The next installment in the Harvard School of Public Health's Practitioners Lecture series is on April 14th from 12:30 to 1:30 PM in the G2 room of the Kresge Building. This month's lecture, entitled 'Ethical Challenges in Preparing for an Emergency', will be delivered by HSPH professor, Dr. Jennifer Leaning.

Upcoming Meetings

The Health Care Committee has set, and will now meet, at a regularly set time each month, the second Tuesday from 8:00 AM until 10:00 AM. The site of the meeting will rotate throughout the region's hospitals that are willing to host.

The next meeting will occur on Tuesday, April 12th from 8:00 AM until 10:00 AM at Tufts-New England Medical Center. (likely in the Emergency Department Conference Room)

For more information concerning the Regional Health Care Subcommittee, please contact Timothy McDonald at tim.mcdonald@cityofboston.gov or at 617.414.1886